MARVEL REMEMBERS

JOHN ROMITA

MARVEL 4

LGY#40

The Web-Spinning Hero Battles Her Greatest Foe Yet!

CINDY MOON IS SILK

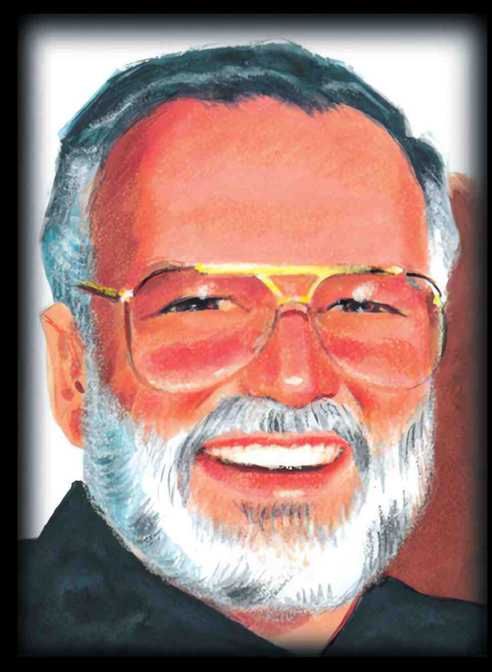
MARVEL PUBLISHING PRESENTS

AN EMILY KIM · IG GUARA · IAN HERRING

ARIANA MAHER PRODUCTION

John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

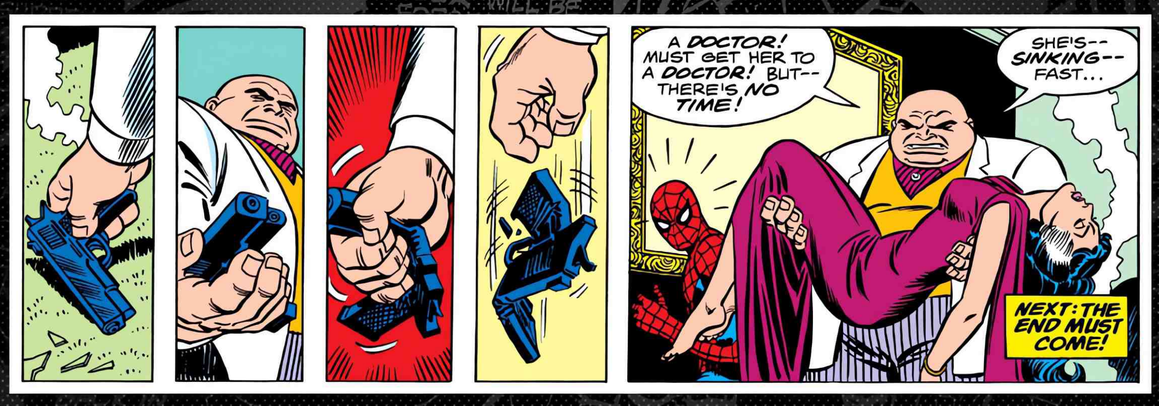
— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man #39*, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21*, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

AS A TEENAGER, **CINDY MOON** WAS BITTEN BY THE SAME SPIDER THAT BIT **PETER PARKER**, GIVING HER POWERS OF **ADHESION**, A **PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS** OF DANGER, AND THE ABILITY TO SHOOT **WEBS** FROM HER FINGERTIPS. TARGETED BY DANGEROUS PEOPLE FOR HER POWERS, SHE WAS LOCKED IN A BUNKER FOR OVER A DECADE. UPON REJOINING THE WORLD, SHE BECAME THE WEB-SPINNING **SUPER HERO** KNOWN AS...

SILK

CINDY MOON, known to some as the web-spinning super hero **SILK**, has been trapped in a movie-inspired dream world with a demon called the **JA-LI** who was feeding on her energy. The ones who trapped her? Enemies from Cindy's recent past–**SAYA ISHII** and her brother **MAX**. If the Ja-Li absorbed enough of Cindy's energy, it would've been able to enter the real world, where Saya hoped to use its power for her own ends. But with the help of Cindy's brother, **ALBERT**, and the right hand of Doctor Strange, **WONG**, Cindy was able to kill the Ja-Li and escape the dream world. When she woke up in the real world, she came face-to-face with Saya–who had merged with the last remnants of the Ja-Li and transformed herself into a terrifying demon!

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Saya?!

What have you...? I mean, what *are*...?

RAWWRRR!

Being trapped in that ***dreamscape*** for an extended period must've drained my energy.

I feel like I ate ten cheeseburgers, then got hit by a truck...

I'm slower than a turtle on cough syrup right now.

SLISH

AHHH!

Gotta...get out of here...

THWIP

WHAM

Don't think...

GRWARRRR!

...just run.

The Sanctum Sanctorum. Greenwich Village, New York City.

BANG BANG

C'mon, *c'mon.* Don't know how much longer I can stay upright.

Cindy! Oh god, are you okay?

Never better, Albert.

Wong, I can't thank you enough.

Friends don't need to say such things.

Enemies, however, have lots to explain.

Uh, hi, Cindy. Sorry to see you're... under the weather.

I'm a lot better off than you're about to be, Max.

You and your sister kept me trapped in a movie-land ***dream state*** so you could siphon my energy and feed it to a ***demon.***

If you hurt me, Saya will retaliate.

I'm guessing she succeeded in raising the Sleep Demon. Now it'll be at her command, and she'll come for me.

Raising the demon?

She *is* the demon.

That's... that's not possible.

I *saw* it. What do you think did *this* to me?

But that was never the plan... Can she...? I mean, is she still...?

Your sister? Hard to say--unless you tell me what's going on.

I can't do that...

Max, last I saw, Saya had horns and claws and some pretty gnarly monster breath. So if you ever want to see her looking like any semblance of your sister again, you *need* to let me help.

You're right...

"After Saya's failed endeavors in America--"

"You mean when she lost control of her demon cat who tried to end the world?"*

"Er...yes, those endeavors.

"She returned to Japan, where she learned her father, ***Silvermane,*** was still alive.

*TRUE STORY! SEE SILK (VOL. 3)!

"He'd faked his death in the hopes of motivating her."

By now, I thought you'd be a household name. Someone history would remember. Like Stark or Richards...

I thought my passing would ***ignite*** something in you.

But I see now... you can't start a fire if there's no ***spark*** to begin with.

"He told her he was giving up on her. There was no longer a need to hide the fact that he was alive.

"Those words drove her to a dark place... She vowed to prove him wrong by becoming the most *powerful* tech lord in the world.

"Even if it meant turning to magic...again.

"She scoured the world, exhausted her savings, until she finally located what she needed.

"Within the pages of the *Mondragone Codex*, she found the info on the Ja-Li--a demon who could provide her with endless resources and influence."

Once inserted into your dreams, the Ja-Li was going to absorb your psychic energy until it could break through into our world, giving Saya an unstoppable ally.

You were just a stepping stone in getting what she wanted.

Failing was not an option for her. She couldn't lose. Not again.

So, when it looked like that was going to happen, she must have decided to merge with the demon.

But I'm sure there's some part of her humanity left. Let me go talk to her. I can get her back. Make her see ***reason.***

And let your sister tear you to shreds? Tempting.

Please, just release me--

First, you lied and pretended to be my therapist.* Then you trapped me in my own dreamscape. I am ***beyond*** done with you, Max.

So, enough excuses. What's her plan? ***Where*** is she?

+Gulp+

*BACK IN SILK (VOL. 3)!

She's probably back at our apartment. We've been using it as a base. I can take you there.

Nice try.

I'm the only one who can bypass the security.

Fine. But you try anything? You're getting thrown in a dumpster and shipped off this continent.

Albert? Where do you think you're going?

I'm coming with you.

Absolutely not. Things got *way* too hairy back in the pirate dream.* You're staying here.

*SEE THE PREVIOUS ISH, YE SCURVY DOGS!

Cindy, I can help!

You should know, your brother acted quite heroically...

Not up for debate. You're *not* coming, Albert.

Shouldn't he be allowed his own choices?

That's right. I'm not a child.

Wong, you of all people know the risks involved. This isn't a game. He could get hurt-- or ***worse.***

Yeah, whatever.

This is for the best, Al.

Relax and rest, Albert. You've earned it.

Let me change into something more appropriate, and then I will accompany you, Cindy Moon.

Can I just say--?

Quiet.

Growing up, my dad was always working, and my mom was with Saya in Japan. Saya was the focus--the golden child. I was the one left by the wayside.

Seriously not interested.

What I'm trying to say is, Saya was there for me when I needed her. She paid the tuition for boarding school and college. After I graduated, she let me live with her, helped me get started as a therapist...

I was lost for a long time. Maybe I still am... But helping Saya with her ambitions isn't just a way for me to pay her back--it's a way to help me find my purpose.

She always knew what she wanted. But for people like me, that's harder. Our roles aren't so clear.

You probably don't get it because you're like Saya. You've always been the star of the show.

But when you've spent your whole life as a supporting character...it's hard to get people to see you as anything else. And so you start to see yourself that way too.

Just ask Albert.

I know Saya's methods are questionable. But she needs my help. And I owe that to her.

I...I just want to get her back.

We're here.

Max, listen to me. What I saw of Saya was all monster. There may be no "getting her back."

So, before we go in there, you need to decide whose side you're on--who *you* are going to be--and stick to it.

I guess her *last* ridiculously expensive, overly extravagant apartment wasn't good enough for her anymore?

Penthouses are my sister's love language.

ACCESS GRANTED. WELCOME HOME, MAX.

CRSH

Sounds like she's at her control center.

This way...

That's my sister?

Saya?

STARK, TONY

RICHARDS, REED

Saya, it's me...your *brother.*

I know you're in there. *Please* just stop what you're doing and we can talk...

Saya?

RAWRR!

THWIP

GAH!

Funny, Saya, I never would've pegged you as a Stark fangirl.

Sssssstark... I'm going to *kill* himmmm.

You're gonna murder ***Tony Stark?*** Oh, I get it. You think you can take out all the top tech leaders in the world to make space for yourself. Eliminate the competition.

But do you really think the public's going to see you as the next Reed Richards in ***this*** condition?! Not sure they'll be banging down your door to book you on the talk-show circuit.

Though I'd love to see that.

I'm subduing her with a freezing spell.

Saya, please... They're trying to help!

You may be holding me down physically...but I am no longer beholden to such *limited* realmssss.

As a Sleep Demon, I can walk effortlessly between the waking and dream worlds. But more importantly, I can kill ssssomeone *for good* in the dream world.

Cool, see you in my dreams. I can kick your butt there too.

It'sss not *your* dreams I'm after, Cindy. After all, what better way to destroy you than to go after the people you love?

The very people you worked so hard to get back?

Did she just...go into someone's dream?

Yes. To kill them. But who?

Someone I love...

Albert.

Huh-
muh-nuh...

Run to
the... I mean it...
Hnnn...

Follow
me! We can
hide in the
forest!

Stay
together!
We're not
splitting
up.

They're
gaining!

GRAWWWW

RAWRRRR

Oh god, what *is* that?

It's your worst nightmare.

TO BE CONCLUDED.

ISSUE #5

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! WRITE TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MESSAGES "OKAY TO PRINT."